



W. D. JOHNSON, ESQ.

The Aggressive Editor of *The Kentucky Standard*.

Alert, aggressive, athletic, lynx-eyed and keen-witted, there stands a gladiator—guarding, like a sentinel on the wall, the sacred interests of his people. Invincible in debate, incisive with pen, a sturdy champion of the right, an implacable foe of evil—he is Mr. W. D. Johnson, of Louisville, editor of the *Kentucky Standard*. No one individual has done more to strengthen the Negro's grasp upon public affairs in the Blue Grass State than Mr. Johnson, and no single influence did more to augment the great wave toward republicanism in Kentucky in the recent campaigns than the editor of the *Kentucky Standard*. Since 1892 he has led the van for reform and liberal government, and at great personal sacrifice. He deserves not only this expression of confidence and note of praise but his merits should receive substantial recognition at the hands of the party—national or State. He has never held public office, but holds a license as a stenographer, granted by the State of Ohio. Mr. Johnson is a business man of the highest type. It is probable that he will soon launch in the city of Louisville an afternoon daily. Louisville has 50,000 Afro-Americans and thousands of big-hearted white people. Mr. Johnson believes they will support the kind of a paper he will offer them. He is a thinker and student of the conditions that beset us. Here is given a communication, kindly furnished by him:

THE PARAMOUNT ISSUE.

Editor *Colored American*:—Permit me to say through your valuable columns that to my mind the most important question affecting the civilization and welfare of this country at this time is that touching inter-racial relations, and the fate of that question first claiming the consideration of the white man relative to the status of the Negro in this, the most progressive country of the world.

The Negro as a race of people has had all kinds of drawbacks which tend to hinder his progress. All other slaves, whether Israelite, Roman, Russian or even native African, when delivered from bondage have gone back to the companionship and sympathy of a dominant and common race, and have found hands and hearts willing and able to help them. It is, however, different with the Negro. An ocean of water and of oblivion separated him from the home of his race.

He is now a free man, but does he enjoy himself as such? Is he not a free man, endowed with all the rights and privileges of a free man? Will he cherish these rights and privileges which are accorded him by the Constitution? The time is not far off when the Negro of this land will be recognized as a man, despite even direful prophecies and horrible apprehensions. The fact remains indisputable that in the most gigantic civil war that the world has ever seen four millions of slaves, whose liberty hung trembling in the balances of war, passed through the most trying ordeal, with all its multiplied temptations, in the very midst of those who were fighting for the perpetual continuance of their bondage, with scarcely a single outrage against life or property being laid at this door. This alone is indeed a good tribute, a good history, a history without a parallel and should overbalance all shortcomings of that unfortunate race, for it out-tongues a thousand slanders and demonstrates that the Negro is capable of the highest civilization.

Mr. Editor, time will not permit me to write at length on this subject, but I hope that you will grant a short space for these scattering remarks until an opportunity presents itself for a more extended discussion. Yours for the race, W. D. JOHNSON.

MAN-ON-THE CORNER

Continued from fourth page

but would not the purposes of the organization be more effectively carried out if the support of several very active journalists now outside the breastworks could be secured? Would not the character and tone be emphasized by the addition of such forces as John C. Dancy, Cyrus F. Adams, E. E. Cooper, Prof. Jesse Lawson, Lewis H. Douglass, George H. White, Rev. B. J. Bolding? all of whom are experienced men; besides such witty and spicy correspondents as W. J. Singleton, E. W. Turner, R. H. Terrell, F. J. Cardozo and Kelly Miller?

Despite the fact that the Afro-American race is making rapid strides along all lines of endeavor, there are numerous pull-backs among us who do their level best to undo the uplifting work of the progressive and manly. When a white man notices that the intelligent Negroes are aroused over some discrim-

ination or injustice—be it in the courts, public offices, or what not—he can always find a Negro low enough to criticize those who protest, and who will cheerfully perform the dirty service of covering the slime on the record of the said white man with an indorsement as "one of the best friends the Negro ever had." A police superintendent may deny proper credit to efficient colored officers; a chief of a department may make wholesale raids upon capable colored clerks and decimate their ranks to a corporal's guard for no other reason than that their places are needed for whites; a prosecutor may refuse to issue warrants for plain violation of our civil rights laws; a grand jury may refuse to indict in such cases and a prejudiced judge may obscure the truth through a partisan charge to his petit jury; civil service commissioners may ignore evidence of illegal classifications of colored clerks and laborers, and irregular certifications—and yet, for a few paltry dollars, or to hold or secure a petty position—or even for the pitiful purpose of scoring a "point"—there are Negroes to be found who will paint these offenders with all the virtues of saints and ascribe to their critics purely selfish motives in making an expose of the methods that rob us of what is rightfully ours. They run to the white people with scandalous gossip, and solicit opportunities to appear as often as possible in the role of black Judas Iscariots. It is to this class of stumbling-blocks that the well-disposed of the Negro race owes its low estate. The Man on the Corner meets them every day. I can only account for their continuance upon earth when I remember that "the Lord is good, and His mercy endureth forever."

The vindication of Bishop Walters is a triumph of decency over the malicious tormentors who are ever on the alert to destroy the character and reputation of those who "sit in the fierce white light that beats about a throne." When this man Corrothers and his frail accomplice

were unceremoniously routed, there went up a thunderous rebuke to every blackmailer, tale-bearer, peace-disturber and scandal-monger that infest the States of the Union—not excepting the District of Columbia. It is a pity that Bishop Walters could not send Corrothers to the penitentiary, where he justly belongs; but it is hoped that his consignment to a disgraceful oblivion will be sufficient to serve a warning notice upon that unwelcome element in all communities who have no respect for the happiness or well-being of their neighbors or the race. Miscreants who stand eager to traduce the honest minister, to villify the courageous race leader, to sneer at the struggling newspaper, to besmirch the fair name of a woman or to suspect the motives of every public servant are blots upon the escutcheon of our people. In choking off two, Bishop Walters has brought upon his brethren a blessing.

One of the best known men in the great army of Uncle Sam's Civil Service is Mr. W. F. Lavalette. He came originally of French stock, and his family connections, ancestry and posterity are of the best. He has been for a long time a communicant of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Though having meagre opportunities for attaining an education, he has profited by contact with the world and has acquired from a varied experience a mental equipment far above the average, and learned much that does not find a place in the curriculum of colleges. He is a linguist of no mean calibre, speaking several languages with the fluency of a native. Twenty-seven years ago he entered the Government Printing Office and, barring a brief season of political drouth, he has served continuously since as a compositor. For eleven years he was a proofreader, being the only colored man to serve in this capacity. His efficiency has always been equal to that of the leaders. It is rumored, and I hope the rumor is true, that Public Printer Palmer has about concluded that the race ought to again be represented in the proofroom, and that Mr. Lavalette will be restored to his old place. If this can be arranged one of our fittest men will be recognized and the spirit of civil service reform will be maintained. Promote Mr. Lavalette, Colonel Palmer, and you will receive a paen of praise from the Negro people and their spokesman.

MAN ON THE CORNER

WHEN LEARNING

LEARN THE BEST Dress Making School.

MRS. L. R. Clark, principal of the Livingston School of Dress Making, a No. 1439 W Street Northwest Washington, has a fine school, and we advise all those who wish to learn this valuable trade to go to her school. She is a fine teacher and a credit to her race. Her terms are reasonable, and all her scholars who have graduated from her school are making a success as dress makers.

She has the only school of its kind in the city. The improved French drafting machine is the most wonderful achievement of Mathematical skill for cutting ladies' and children's garments. It is not difficult to learn, as it does not require any complicated figuring. Special lessons given in the Art of Ladies' Tailoring, also in blending colors. Young men are taught Ladies' Tailoring at this school. Class for young men from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday 9:30 to 1:30 a.m. Saturdays. For information call at the school.

Persons desiring to learn the art of making altering and trimming hats are taught the same while taking the course in dress making. This, however, is paid for independent of dress making. Mrs. M. Underdown of Cincinnati, who is a graduate of Armour Institute of Chicago, will instruct in this branch of the work.

MRS. L. R. CLARKE,
Principal

SUMMER RESORTS.

KEEN COTTAGE.

1713 Arctic Ave Atlantic City, N. J.

This Cottage is about two squares from either railroad. It will accommodate about fifty guests. Rooms are large and airy with a beautiful piazza, it has been thoroughly renovated and put in first-class condition, with all modern conveniences. No pains will be spared to make everything comfortable for our patrons. Address all communications prior to June 1st.

MR. S. A. KEEN.

THE KEYSTONE PARK.

The Keystone Park, Suitland, Md., will be open and ready for business June 1st. A commodious house with large and improved premises, plenty of fresh water with garden and chickens where a number of select couples or people can be accommodated. Everything is strictly first-class. The Route 44 Cars run to the new Pennsylvania ave., bridge and for those who drive, follow the straight road and watch the signs. Private parties will be met at the bridge conveyances. For those who desire to spend the heated term arrangements will be made for trips morning and evening. For further information apply at 443 1st st., S.W.

DRESS MAKING ACADEMY.

The de Lam Orton Famous French Perfection Tailor System Mme J. A. Smallwood, Sole Agent 1513 Madison street, northwest, Morning class from 9 a. m. to 1 p. m. Afternoon class 2 to 5 p. m. daily. Evenings from 7.30 to 10 o'clock.

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, dress-makers and ladies who wish to do their own dressmaking.

WANTED—To learn the wonderful De Lam Orton French Perfection Tailor System. Seamless Basques without one inch of visible seam, in lining or goods, not even on the shoulder. Successful dressmaking requires as much earnest progressive study as successful work in any of the professions. No detail is too small to be looked after. We teach you to make dresses with or without seam and guarantee perfect fits, and complete your course with a diploma.

Pupils can enter at any time.

Business Opportunity.

WANTED—A good man to lease a Park in easy access to the city on suburban car line. Water, shade, pavilion and all modern conveniences. Address M. care Colored American Office.

Wanted Rooms.

If you have a spare room that you would like to rent to desirable parties, advertise them in *The Colored American*.

WANTED—A gentleman in the department desires room and board in a first class private family. Is willing to pay first rate for a home-like place. Address B. care this office.

Improve the Hair and Complexion.

Singleton's Pharmacy 20th and E carries a full line of Ozone preparations with his toilet articles and sundries. See display this week.

COTTAGES FOR SALE.

Four desirable Cottages on Jefferson Street, between Washington and La Fayette Streets. In the very best locality, newly painted and papered all the latest improvements on easy terms. For further particulars address J. Harry Hughes Cape May, N. J.

Madre's Park situated on the Eckington and Suburban Line at the corner of 7th and Albany Streets has been refitted and is now for rent for picnics, garden parties, etc. This park has a beautiful pavilion 50 by 50, swings, excellent water and everything necessary to make it a desirable pleasure resort. For further information call or address M. A. D. Madre, Madre's Park, 7th and Albany Streets, Eckington, D. C.

Upperville, Virginia.

Mrs. Virginia Pinkett, Upperville, Va., Farquar County, desires to take a number of first class summer boarders. Upperville is located in a beautiful part of Virginia and arrangements have been already made to give first class service to a limited number of persons who desire to spend a few weeks in the summer. Rates are reasonable and the Villa is located close to the Blue Ridge Mountains with splendid water, etc. For further information address Mrs. Virginia Pinkett, Upperville, Farquar County, Va.